

1952 YEAR BOOK OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY—Edited by J. P. Greenhill, M.D., F.A.C.S., Professor of Gynecology, Cook County Graduate School of Medicine. The Year Book Publishers, Inc., 200 East Illinois Street, Chicago, 1952. 575 pages, \$5.50.

The 1952 Year Book of Obstetrics and Gynecology, edited by J. P. Greenhill, again presents a comprehensive review of the world literature as it applies to this specialized field. The articles abstracted in this volume cover the period July 1951 through June 1952. As usual, the work is well done. The material is well-balanced, 283 pages of the text being devoted to obstetrics and 272 to gynecology. Practicing obstetricians will appreciate the generous portion of the former section allocated to the various aspects of labor and problems associated therewith. Adequate coverage of progress in research in gynecological and obstetrical fields is presented, but is not overdone. The editorial comments are cogent. In general, this current edition of the Year Book continues to merit the high place this publication holds as a reference work.

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OPERATIVE NEUROSURGERY—With Emphasis on Procedures in Trauma—Elisha Stephens Gurdjian, M.D., Professor of Neurosurgery, Wayne University College of Medicine, and John E. Webster, M.D., Assistant Professor of Surgery, Wayne University College of Medicine. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1952. 422 pages, 129 plates, \$10.00.

This is a well-written concise book on neurological surgery. It will serve the general practitioner and general surgeon who are often forced to do some neurosurgical procedures on traumatized patients. The contents of the book include four sections: (1) the head, (2) the spine, (3) the autonomic nervous system, and (4) the peripheral nervous system. The illustrations are abundant but extremely difficult to understand. They consist of semi-diagrammatic line drawings but the contrast in them is poor, and the text itself must be carefully read and studied in an effort to understand the illustrations. The book is essentially devoted to surgical techniques with very little discussion of diagnostic and physiological considerations. The book fills a void in neurosurgical literature, for a concise book on neurosurgical operations has been needed. In the past one has had to refer to individual articles or monographs in order to obtain much of the information in this book. This book can be recommended to young surgeons interested in neurosurgery and to practicing surgeons who must do occasional neurosurgical procedures.

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BACTERIAL AND MYCOTIC INFECTIONS OF MAN—2nd Edition—Edited by Rene J. Dubos, Ph.D., The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, 1952. 885 pages, 98 illustrations, \$7.50.

The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, Inc., has done doctors a good service by aiding the publication of this useful book so as to bring the cost within reasonable limits. Needless to say, Dr. Dubos has assembled a panel of top authorities to write the various sections. The book is not primarily a clinical treatise; while clinical matters are dealt with, it is primarily a discussion of clinical bacteriology. Typhoid fever, for example, which covered 50 pages in Osler's textbook, here receives two pages, and so forth. Swift's article on the streptococci, one of the best in the volume, occupies about 60 pages; of these streptococcal diseases of man are discussed in 15 pages. But a superb background is developed by the fundamental discussion of streptococci from the biological and clinical bacteriological standpoints.

The volume is finely printed and illustrated and each

article is followed by a comprehensive bibliography. It fills a gap between the ordinary textbook of bacteriology and the standard textbook on medicine; at the moderate price it should be within the reach of every doctor and student.

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THE TREATMENT OF INJURIES TO THE NERVOUS SYSTEM—Donald Munro, M.D., F.A.C.S., Surgeon-in-Chief, Department of Neurosurgery, The Boston City Hospital; Associate Professor of Neurosurgery, Boston University School of Medicine; Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery, Harvard Medical School. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1952. 284 pages with 47 figures, \$7.50.

This monograph presents in a single volume the thoughts and conclusions arrived at by the author during a professional lifetime in which the treatment of injuries to the central nervous system has been his particular interest. Few men have had or will have Dr. Munro's broad experience in the handling of this type of lesion of the nervous system. Coupled with this opportunity, he has brought to bear an original approach to the handling of traumatic problems which has resulted in many therapeutic developments which are in general use today. The section devoted to the management of the paralyzed bladder is of particular interest, as is also the chapter on rehabilitation.

It should be mentioned that there are some opinions and recommendations expressed here which are controversial. An example of this relates to recommended fluid intake following injury. To many practitioners, the amount suggested will seem large and perhaps not in keeping with current thinking concerning water metabolism and brain edema. The author's enthusiasm for section of the tentorium will also require critical consideration.

In the process of putting to use some of these unique recommendations, surgeons must consider a factor which the author could not stress as much as perhaps it should be emphasized; this is the role of constant personal attention to detail which is of such great importance to the success of his endeavor in this demanding field.

The monograph is written for all who are called upon to deal with injury to the nervous system. As such it will be of most interest to the neurosurgeon. To those of this group who will study it as a whole, thoroughly and critically, it will be a welcome addition to the working library.

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STANDARD VALUES IN BLOOD—Being the first fascicle of a *Handbook of Biological Data*. Edited by Errett C. Albritton, A.B., M.D., Fry Professor of Physiology, the George Washington University. Prepared under the direction of the Committee on the Handbook of Biological Data, American Institute of Biological Sciences, the National Research Council. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1952. 199 pages, \$4.50.

It is impossible in limited space to describe adequately the contents of this volume, which in general consists of many tables containing data pertaining to blood. Great pains were taken to assure presentation of the most reliable values for a wide variety of substances. Mean values are supplemented by ranges whenever possible, and the data have been collected from many animals in addition to man. Sources of information are cited.

Subjects include physical properties, coagulation phenomena, blood groups, hemoglobin, blood and bone marrow cells, and chemical substances. One may find the concentration of valine in mouse plasma, riboflavin in snake blood, or arginase activity in man's erythrocytes. Effective levels of therapeutic agents are given. Tables concerning the effects of radiation on peripheral blood and the changes in stored preserve blood are reminders of our times. The volume belongs in the hands of investigators everywhere.